

# Flight Jacket

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## Miramamar pilots aid in emergency

by Sgt. Steven A. Davis

PAO, MCAS Miramar

A civilian pilot is safe and resting comfortably today, thanks to the efforts of two Miramar F/A-18D "Hornet" pilots who came to his rescue Tuesday evening.

What began as a routine training evolution for Navy Lt. Hunter Ellis and Capt. Kevin S. Kretzschmar, Marine Fighter Attack Training Squadron 101 instructors, turned into a nerve-wracking and potentially life-saving adventure. Located approximately 100 miles off the California coast, Ellis and Kretzschmar were notified by Beaver Control, the local airspace-controlling agency, that it had lost communication with an unidentified aircraft in the area.

"Beaver Control asked us to check it out, and we said no problem," stated Ellis. "We found the aircraft on our radar, only about eight miles from our position, and pro-

ceeded to join on him."

What the pilots discovered was a Super King B-200 aircraft cruising at 190 knots and 10,500 feet. There were no signs of movement and the aircraft was apparently on auto-pilot.

Initially, the pilots' visibility was hampered by the angle of the sun. It was only after 15 minutes of paralleling the aircraft and attempting communication that the "Hornet" instructors noticed signs of life. "As the sun went down, I could make out the pilot slumped over into the passenger's seat," recounted Ellis. "We contacted Beaver Control and wanted to stay with this guy as long as we could, but our fuel was getting low."

It is unknown at this time why the pilot became debilitated or the circumstances



photo by Sgt. Steven A. Davis

**Navy Lt. Hunter Ellis (right) and Capt. Kevin S. Kretzschmar recount their heroics Wednesday to members of the local media. The VMFAT-101 instructor pilots aided a civilian pilot in distress Tuesday evening.**

surrounding his situation. The instructors concern turned to getting the pilot's attention, as quickly as possible, before their fuel situation forced them to return to base. "It was the worst feeling because there was very little we could do," said Ellis. "Just then both aircraft went through some turbulence and suddenly he sat up inside the cockpit."

Hope for averting disaster increased dramatically at this point, but the pilot was extremely disoriented and the "Hornet's" fuel level was reaching a critical point. Although the two aircraft were unable to communicate directly, "It seemed he was able to get his wits about him and we were able to signal

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## Vietnam MIA Marines indetified

Office of Assistant Secretary of Defense

Public Affairs

Six Marines missing in action from the Vietnam War have been accounted for and their remains are being returned to their families for burial in the United States.

They are identified as Lance Cpl. Gregory S. Copenhaver, Port Deposit, Md.; Lance Cpl. Andres Garcia, Carlsbad, N.M.; Pfc. Walter Boyd, Norfolk, Va.; and Pfc. Kelton R. Turner, Los Angeles, Calif. The names of two Marines are being withheld at the request of their families.

On May 12, 1975, Khmer Rouge gunboats captured the SS Mayaguez in the Gulf of Thailand approximately 60 nautical miles off the coast of Cambodia. The vessel was taken to Koh [island] Tang. Alerted to the capture, U.S. Navy and Air Force aircraft began surveillance flights around the island. After efforts to secure the release of the ship and its crew failed, U.S. military forces were ordered to undertake a rescue mission.

Three days after the Mayaguez seizure, six Air Force helicopters were dispatched to the island. One of the helicopters came under heavy enemy fire as it approached the eastern beach of the island. The aircraft crashed into the surf with 26 men on board. Half were rescued at sea, leaving 13 unaccounted.

The United States, Cambodian and Vietnamese government efforts to resolve the cases of these unaccounted Marines was massive. Between 1991-99, U.S. and Cambodian investigators conducted seven joint investigations, led by the Joint Task Force-Full Accounting.

Additionally, on three occasions Cambodian authorities unilaterally turned over remains believed to be those of American servicemen. In October and Novem-

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## Reconnecting with America — 50th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Celebration salutes America's best

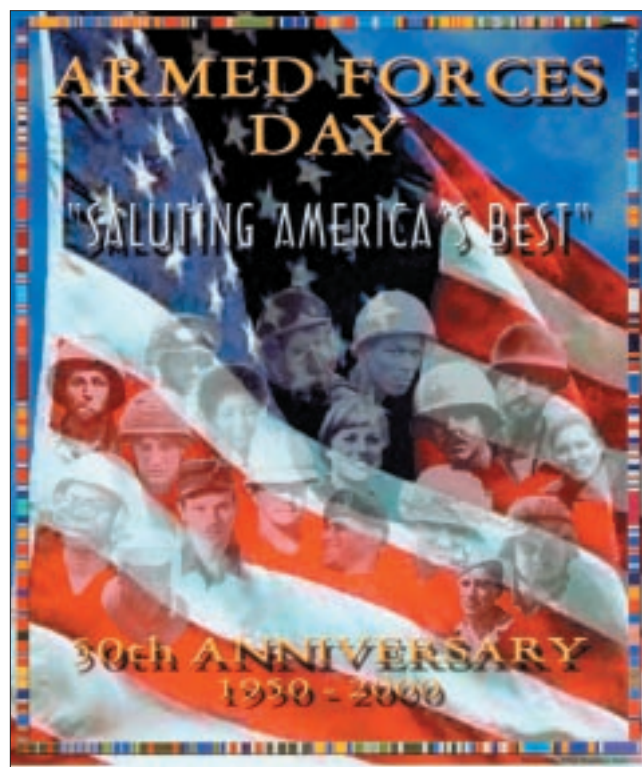
by Lance Cpl. John R. Lawson III

Marine Corps News

Public support for the military comes from public understanding of the military, and Secretary of Defense William Cohen is bolstering the former by fueling the latter.

The initiative, labeled "Reconnecting America With Its Military," has received additional emphasis recently, as the 50th annual Armed Forces Day was celebrated Saturday, and Memorial Day will be observed Monday.

Secretary Cohen has emphasized the "Reconnect" theme in speeches, meetings and press interviews. From the secretary's level on down to the public affairs offices at military bases, the "Reconnect" theme will be getting more and more attention. It's not that the public has a bad impression of the



military. On the contrary, according to a recent article in USA Today, experts say the military consistently ranks highly among institutions the American public respects.

The impetus for keeping

Americans aware of what their armed forces do is the fact that ignorance about the military is a growing threat. According to a Department of Defense news release, fewer than six percent of

Americans under the age of 60 have served in the military.

Fewer and fewer reporters, teachers, business leaders and other opinion shapers have experienced military service, DoD officials note. This weakens the public's understanding of those who serve in uniform, and it makes recruiting much more difficult, DoD officials say.

The "Reconnect" theme highlights several aspects of military life. One is the dedication and sacrifice of service members. Another is the underlying purpose for having U.S. forces — national security.

Yet another is the achievement that individual service members often realize.

Military commands are encouraged to reach out to the public in every way available. That means connecting with everything from youth organizations and pro-

fessional societies to newspapers and TV stations.

Also, military officials should strive to make connections with individuals who can make a difference, whether those individuals are parents or clergy members or celebrities.

Defense officials want to project the message that "The Military Mirrors America." Along with that message, defense officials want to deliver some additional ideas, such as: "Americas military makes the world better and safer;" "America's military — It's your military;" and "Service and Sacrifice — The pillars of American Defense." In the end, defense officials say, the public must understand its armed forces. The public needs to know what the armed forces do, and the public needs to know

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## Flight Jacket



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Commanding General  
3d Marine Aircraft Wing

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## Commander's Column



**Maj. Gen. William G. Bowdon**  
Commander, Marine Corps Air Bases Western Area

The upcoming Memorial Day weekend is an excellent opportunity to relax with family and friends, and take a well-deserved break from demanding work schedules. I encourage all Marines, Sailors, civilian employees and their families to take advantage of the long weekend, and partake in the activity of your choice.

Please also take time to consider the significance of Memorial Day, and recall that it is a day of remembrance for those who have

died in our nation's service. This represents the ultimate sacrifice, and we should appreciate those who gave their lives for our continued freedom and pursuit of happiness.

Holiday weekends are ideal for recreation and travel, however a certain amount of risk is involved. If we remain cognizant of potentially unsafe situations, then the risk factor for a given activity is greatly reduced.

When planning for recreation and travel, include any safety implications as an integral part of the plan. Always consider factors such as vehicle maintenance, protective equipment and fatigue. By doing so, the probability of injuries or death to you, your friends or family is minimized. We owe it to each other and our families to do no less.

Some of you may wonder why safety is always the foremost topic prior to holiday weekends. Unfortunately, the reason is too many Marines are being injured or killed due to senseless accidents. We must turn the tide on these preventable mishaps and take better care of one another and ourselves. When we say the individual Marine is our most precious asset it is not a catch-phrase — each and every one of you are important to mission accomplishment, and we cannot afford to lose



your services.

Pay attention to safety briefs and apply the recommendations provided to all situations. I encourage leaders at all levels to do whatever is necessary to impress the paramount importance of safety. However, safety briefs will be rendered ineffective if the safety tips are not put into practice by individuals. Staff noncommissioned officers or officers-in-charge will likely not be present to supervise liberty activities. Continuously think in terms of safety — when each individual becomes conditioned to consider safety in all pursuits accidents will decline.

Finally, I want to thank all Marine Corps Air Bases Western Area personnel for their fine efforts over the last eleven months. I am continually impressed by the superb quality of your work. You make me proud everyday. Take care and enjoy your holiday weekend.

Semper Fi.



## Changes enable service members to keep on-station travel agency

by Cpl. Carolyn S. Sittig

PAO, MCAS Miramar

Leisure Travel, the station travel office, recently announced the implementation of transaction fees that will go into effect June 1.

The incorporation of these fees is a combination of recent changes with commission from the airlines and a demanding economy. The travel office provides a variety of travel services like airline tickets, cruises and tours, and also includes rental car reservations, train reservations and coach tours. "We offer quality services from vendors at a reasonable rate," said Susan Richardson, Marine Corps Com-

munity Services leisure activities director.

Unlike many services provided through the military, the travel office is a privately owned business that falls under the Navy Region Southwest office. Because it is privately owned, the travel office is not funded through Marine Corps Community Services or any other military program. Instead, it gets funds through a small percentage from every transaction the travel agents make, whether it is making an airline reservation or renting someone a car.

Other travel offices have been forced to close their doors as a result of the changes with the airline

commissions. Many service members on Army and Navy bases are feeling this change and having to go off-base or through airlines and car rental agencies for their travel needs. The only alternative to the fee increase is closing the office, said Richardson. Though we're charging fees, they are still less than other outside agencies, she explained.

The changes were deemed necessary after months of brainstorming to cut the rising costs of providing travel services. The travel office has reduced their hours to cut costs, but those efforts were not substantial enough to keep them from having to charge fees. With

little choice left the Navy Region Southern Office, which the travel office is in alliance with, mandated the transactional fees.

A transaction fee of \$7 will be applied per airline ticket for the first four tickets purchased or for a maximum of \$28. Fees for each car or hotel reservation made will be \$10, however, if these are made while also doing an airline reservation the additional \$10 fee will not be applied. A \$40 deposit is required for custom tour packages for people wanting to make up their own itinerary for a tour. This fee will be applied to the cost of the

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## Sergeant Major's Corner



by Sgt. Maj. Ira J. Lott

MCABWA Sergeant Major

Congratulations to the Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron Cadence Calling Competition Squad for taking first place in the competition. Platoon members were: Master Sgt. Roberts, Gunnery Sgt. Robinson, Staff Sgt. Marshall, Sgt. Bischoff, Cpl. Eudaly, Cpl. Garcez, Cpl. Nguyen, Cpl. Villegas, Lance Cpl. Carson, Lance Cpl. Heidrick, Lance Cpl. Meyer, Lance Cpl. Rapier, Lance Cpl. Sutton, Lance Cpl. West, Pfc. Ramirez, Pfc. Rios, and Pfc. Whitcomb.

There was very stiff competition and hopefully next year we'll have more competitors. The first place prize of \$500.00 will be donated to the Enlisted Ball Fund. Good job devil dogs!

If you weren't at the Armed Services YMCA Enlisted Recognition Ball this past Saturday, you missed out on some serious fun. A good time was had by all. Mr. Louis Bershad was the guest speaker and gave an inspiring speech recognizing the work of our enlisted. Maybe we'll see you at next year's ball.

There are a few new Marine Administration messages out that you might want to take a look at. First, MARADMIN 261/00 tells of a NUC for the Recruiting Command from Sept. 1, 1999, to Aug. 31, 1999, and the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal for certain members of the 11<sup>th</sup> MEU (SOC) for Operation Safe Departure.

## Safety brief

### Courtesy of Safety Department

MCAS Miramar

Ah, the 101 days of summer, that wonderful time, which begins Memorial Day weekend and ends with Labor Day. Many of us will hit the highways for fishing in a mountain lake, showing the family America's National Parks and great historic sites, family reunions, or just getting away for a change of scenery. Once we get to our locations, there's swimming, boating, water skiing, picnicking, and plenty of sunshine. Sounds great, but take a few moments to make good traveling plans to make your trip and summer adventure the safest possible. Consider these tips and facts.

#### Driving:

- Vehicle in good working order?
- Check the tires. Spare tire also in good shape? Remember how to check the tread with a penny?
- Plan on frequent rest stops.
- Get a good night's rest before setting out on the journey.
- Stop when fatigue sets in. Coffee and sodas with caffeine will not take the place of a good night's sleep.
- Buckle in all occupants. Put children and infants in the back seat. Almost half of those killed in traffic mishaps would be alive today if they had worn safety belts.
- Skip the alcohol. All the other summer activities will provide plenty of fun.

#### Swimming:

- Drowning is the number one cause of recreational deaths. Most victims are poor swimmers who do not have the necessary skills to cope with an emergency.
- Drowning is the leading killer of children around the home.
- Nearly all diving (not SCUBA) mishaps occur in shallow water.
- Using alcohol or other drugs increases

MARADMIN 244/00 deals with Validating Individual Retirement Plan Qualification. This MARADMIN deals with your "date of original entry armed forces." The DEAF date is used to determine eligibility for one of three retirement plans. It is the date a Marine was first enlisted, commissioned, appointed or inducted into any uniformed service. Headquarters Marine Corps has discovered that the DEAF for a number of Marines is not correct.

MARADMIN 258/00 is the first cut for staff sergeant eligibility. It gives all the information on cut-off dates for selection to staff sergeant. See your admin office or sergeant major on any of these MARADMINS.

Heading to Mexico this holiday weekend? If you are, be aware that the Border Patrol and INS officials will be checking ID cards in their efforts to help you have a safe weekend. They will also be checking to see if E-3s and below have the appropriate paperwork to cross into Mexico. See your sergeant major or admin office to ensure you do have the proper paperwork. During Spring Break, they turned close to 400 people back for not having the proper paperwork.

Everyone must think safety this weekend. This is the semiofficial start of the summer season with our first 4-day holiday. Remember that alcohol and motor vehicles/watercraft just don't mix! Be safe and watch out for each other. NCO's take charge and everyone have a safe fun weekend.

your chances of a mishap.

- There is no substitute for knowing how to swim - to protect yourself and your family take a swimming class. (MCCS, Red Cross, YMCA, etc.)

#### Water skiing:

- Know how to swim and always wear a personal flotation device (PFD).
- Have two people in the boat. One to drive and one to watch the skier.
- Run parallel to shore and come in slowly when landing.
- Stay away from others - fishers, divers, swimmers.

#### Boating:

- The majority of boat operators having fatal mishaps have never taken a safe boating course.
- Read and heed the boat manufacturers load capacity plate.
- Have persons aboard wear PFDs.
- Leave a float plan with a friend. Include where you are going, start time, boat number, type and color of boat, where your vehicle is parked and what time to notify the proper agency if you have not returned.

#### Picnicking:

- Prepare food with clean hands and implements.
- Keep hot foods hot (above 140F).
- Keep cold food cold (below 40F).
- Don't allow any food to stay unrefrigerated for more than an hour.

#### Sun bathing:

- Avoid all unnecessary exposure, especially between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., when the rays are strongest.
- Use a sunscreen.
- Wear a hat and shirt with long sleeves if you will be in the sun a long time.

The Safety Department, located in Building 9442 can provide safe driving checklists, videos, pamphlets etc., for summertime safety.

## Out with the old, in with the new



photo by Lance Cpl. Kristopher S. Grajeda

**Maj. Gen. William Bowdon, Commander, Marine Corps Air Bases Western Area and David L. Brant, director of Naval Criminal Investigative Service celebrates the opening of the new NCIS building with a ribbon cutting ceremony May 17th.**



## Cultivator of remembrance

by Capt. Kristen A. Lasica and  
Sgt. Bryce R. Piper

31st MEU

FIFTH FIELDER'S MONUMENT, GUAM— The shelling continued for days, pounding away at the indifferent Japanese fortifications. When U.S. Marines, soldiers and sailors of III Amphibious Corps landed, there were still many hard battles to be fought, miles of dense jungle to be won, gallons of blood to be spilled.

It was the Chamorros, the native people proudly surviving two-and-a-half years of martial law under Japanese occupation on their American territory of Guam, who now found themselves caught between the clash of these two titans.

As the Japanese saw their impending doom approaching in the weeks prior to the invasion, Chamorro hardships increased in both intensity and frequency. As happened in many of history's occupations, incidents of slave labor, rapes, mass executions and other violations of Chamorro human rights multiplied. The initial thrust of the liberation would also prove costly. From over the horizon, the American shelling reduced many a picturesque Guamanian city to rubble.

Despite their hardships, the Chamorro people never lost hope that the Americans would return to liberate them. "Ti u apmam Na'i animo," said the Chamorros, "It won't be long, take courage." They did; it took from July 21 to August 10, 1944.



photo by Sgt. Bryce R. Piper

**Cultivator of remembrance, Victor Hocog, volunteers his time and effort to care for the Fifth Fielder's Monument in Guam. Hocog's deep spiritual roots and gratitude drive him to transform what was once an overgrown latte stone by the roadside into a flowering garden dedicated to the liberators of his forefathers. The monument reads, "Site of the Fifth Field/Service Depot Fleet Marine Force, Pacific 1944-1950. Dedicated to the United States Marines and United States Naval personnel who served here and to the memory of those who gave their lives in the liberation of Guam, July 21-August 10, 1944. Dedicated July 21, 1994."**

On an isolated stretch of a busy highway, in an unsuspecting field, stands a small, white latte stone, nestled amidst a wealth of colorful flowers, plants and fruit-bearing trees. The steady stream of passersby make their way to the many

thriving hotels, restaurants, resorts and businesses that make up the American Pacific jewel that Guam has become. Many are unaware of the significance of this small, beautiful garden. Though easier to see today, the monument is still not well known. As are buried the memories of Guam's treacherous road to freedom, the monument laid dormant under thick sheets of encroaching sword grass and jungle until one proud Guamanian took heed. His sacred bond with his ancestor's past drove him to resurrect the spirit of the monument.

"It's not for me, it's for the boys," said Victor Hocog, the monument's caretaker. "I want the monument to be recognized, because they're our heroes ... This story right now is about the boys. We call them our boys because they liberated us ... They gave us our freedom ... that's the reason why I'm volunteering to take care of this monument. It's a way of paying back. It's my way of paying back."

One would never suspect this robust, sun-darkened native in a tie-dyed Bob Marley T-shirt and dreadlocks to be a keeper of such a sacred remembrance. But a few minutes with the man reveals a cultural pride and undying gratitude to the Marines, soldiers and sailors who liberated his people long before he was born.

"And so like three years ago, I pass by the monument," explained Hocog. "The grass was so tall and everything, and it looked abandoned. I knew that the guy who was taking care of it stopped. So I went to John Blaz and I told him I would take over; I'd volunteer and I'd be the one to take care of the monument. It took like two years to really put that monument together. Just cut the tall grass, clean it up. Then I started planting flowers.

"I had this vision when I found out the soldiers were coming to Guam," Hocog said, "so I wanted to plant the latte stone and shape it so when they're going to land in Guam they can see the monument, they can see the latte stone."

Many variations of the latte stone can be seen throughout Guam. It's a symbol of strength and foundation for the native people. This is why Hocog chose to cultivate his garden in its likeness.

"It's most appropriate the monument is latte stone shaped," said Hocog, ... "because that represents the Chamorro people. We are the people of the latte stone. Our ancient ancestors, that's what they used for their housing. It's like the foundation ... It's a symbol. It's an identity of the people."

Now, a line of spiraling, yellow bushes surrounds the monument in the shape of the Chamorros' sacred latte stone. It rests at a perfect direction and distance for passengers to see from the left side of descending airplanes destined for Guam's international airport.

But it's more than the latte-stone shape that holds special significance for Hocog and his people. Planting fruit-bearing trees also signifies vitality to the Chamorros. Hocog chose bananas and coconuts to rejuvenate the spirit of the monument. Surviving typhoons to bear life-giving milk and pulp, the coconut represents more than just a fruit.

"I decided to plant a special tree — a coconut plant. You can live on an island with just a coconut. You have the drink, the meat to eat. It's the fruit of life," Hocog explained. "I had a vision also that one day when the soldiers come back they can take the coconut from the tree."

"Today I planted the banana tree," Hocog continued. "It's also a symbol of the new millennium, to re-live the boys, to bring more life back to the boys. ... You know, these guys are a dying breed. You're talking like 50 years since the war or something like that. A lot of these guys are already old, you know? ... It's just the path of life. But it means a lot to them because they were here, they freed us. ... They'll like the banana tree. You come back like two years from now; it's going to have fruits."

Approximately two years after Hocog began caring for the monument, he had the opportunity to meet the Marines to whom it was dedicated, the Fifth Fielders. Surviving members of Fifth Field Depot/Fifth Service Depot returned to Guam to commemorate Guam's Liberation Day. They visited their monument.

"July 20, 1999, that was the day that they came. ... They even brought in the Marine Band from Okinawa to play for the boys," explained Hocog. "I knew they were coming, so I totally went all out and I cleaned the whole park, the whole nine yards.

"There was one guy who came up to me after the ceremony and he was crying, he was crying to me," Hocog continued. "He told me the story of his buddies who were ambushed, this was after the war already, there were still some Japanese in the jungle. He had some of his buddies ambushed and killed. He said, 'Thank you very much for taking care of our monument. I can't believe there was somebody here that cared, somebody to take care of our monument.'"



# Marine pioneer looks back on changing Corps

by Sgt. Steven A. Davis

PAO, MCAS Miramar

Sgt. Maj. Charlene K. Wiese-Perisho may not be a commonly-known figure among active duty Marines, but she's probably forgotten more about the Corps than many have experienced first-hand. As the Marine Forces Reserve sergeant major, she is constantly on the road visiting 186 Marine Corps sites and checking up on more than 40,000 Marines in her charge.

Her travels recently brought her to MCAS Miramar, where she found time to sit down with the *Flight Jacket* on the eve of seeing her grandson, James Ewing, graduate from boot camp.

A diehard Green Bay Packer and Wisconsin Badger fan, Perisho grew up on a Wisconsin farm, belonging to an athletic family and exhibiting an "I can do anything you can do" attitude that has served the sergeant major well throughout her nearly 30-year career. The sergeant major's active duty career may be winding down (the MarForRes post and relief is slated for late June), but there's no doubt that her pioneer experiences have made the Marine Corps a better organization for having served.



photo by Sgt. Steven A. Davis

**During the mid-1970s, Sgt. Maj. Charlene K. Wiese-Perisho, Marine Forces Reserve sergeant major, was involved in a number of sweeping changes in the Marine Corps. She was one of the first 13 women Marines to enter the Fleet Marine Force and the first female drill instructor to lead a male Officer Candidate School platoon.**

***Flight Jacket:*** It must be difficult to summarize 30 years of Marine Corps service, but what do you consider the highlights of your career?

***Wiese-Perisho:*** Making it through boot camp back in 1971 was probably the biggest one — that and being a drill instructor. I went down to Parris Island in 1975, spent two years there and that was definitely an outstanding tour that I really enjoyed. From there I went to Quantico and spent two years at Officers Candidate School. I think I was the first and only female to have a male platoon (as an instructor). That was a unique experience, something that they wanted to try. I enjoyed my time there, and I think every tour I've had I've enjoyed to some extent.

I had wanted to get into the military police when I came into the Marine Corps in '71 but it wasn't open to women at that time. In fact, it opened up in '75 when I was a drill instructor. When I was at OCS as a drill instructor, I was studying law and criminal justice and I put in for a lateral move to the MPs. By that time I was a gunny and they were short of staff NCOs and there were no female staff NCOs in the field. That was in '79 and I was thinking about leaving the Marine Corps and going into federal law enforcement, but I received the lateral move to the MPs and I stayed in. I spent five years as an MP, then became a first sergeant and was lucky enough to do a variety of jobs as a first sergeant, made sergeant major and enjoyed every tour I've had.

***Flight Jacket:*** Can you pinpoint the most significant event in your career?

***Wiese-Perisho:*** The day I graduated boot camp, definitely. That's the one thing that still stands out in my mind — when I received the Eagle, Globe and Anchor. To get it that day and be called a Marine the first time — I think everything after that

was just built on that one moment.

***Flight Jacket:*** What mark are you going to leave on the Marine Corps?

***Wiese-Perisho:*** I don't know if I'm leaving any marks on it, but I definitely was part of a lot of changes as far as females in the Marine Corps. I talk to some young females today and I don't think they realize how much it has changed since I came in, back when we didn't fire a weapon and didn't go to the field and didn't wear cammies and there were maybe four (Military Occupational Specialty) fields women could go into. There were no guaranteed contracts, so you were basically given an MOS in boot camp and that's where you went. I've been lucky enough to be involved with a lot of firsts. I was one of the original 13 women assigned to the FMF (Fleet Marine Force) in 1974. There were six of us who were all assigned to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Marine Aircraft Wing at Cherry Point and the rest went to El Toro. It was an experiment because at that time women were only assigned to bases and stations, but we went to 2<sup>nd</sup> MAW and eventually they realized that they could put women in a lot of different fields and it opened up the door.

There were a lot of changes in the '74-'75 time frame. They did away with the women Marine companies and women were fully integrated. That was a big step

and was something we needed because at that time we were a second Marine Corps within the Marine Corps. We trained separate, did our inspections separate, and even our admin was done separate. You really felt isolated. You were accepted in your sections as a fellow Marine but it was a really strange feeling.

I was there when we took the first series of females out to fire the A-course. All the female drill instructors had to qualify with the rifle and pistol. That was in 1977, so up until that time women had never fired at Parris Island. If anything, just being a part of the historical changes that women have been through during the '70s, '80s, '90s and now into the new century. I think the opportunities are going to be greater, not just for females but everybody coming in.

***Flight Jacket:*** The term "dark green Marine" and "WM" are gradually fading from the Corps' vernacular...

***Wiese-Perisho:*** Among other more colorful words from back in the '70s (laughing).

***Flight Jacket:*** What statement do you think that makes about the Marine Corps' evolution?

***Wiese-Perisho:*** We are a reflection of our society, although a little more regimented and disciplined, and I think that's why a lot of young people come into the military and Marine Corps in particular. I think each generation is getting more and more used to accepting each other as individuals. They're realizing that regardless of male or female, black, white or otherwise, Marine Corps training will allow anyone to accomplish whatever they need to do.

I was a platoon sergeant for a female platoon at OCS on my second year out there. It seemed like all of them were really short and they had a hard

time on the obstacles. But many of them never realized what they had inside themselves and had never been tested, really been asked to do anything. So as I watched their progression from the first week they got there to 10 weeks later when they graduated, the greatest difference was confidence, and it was Marine Corps training that gave them that confidence. They could accomplish things they never thought they could prior to boot camp.

***Flight Jacket:*** Do you think that example is a microcosm for what many young Marines coming into the Marine Corps face?

***Wiese-Perisho:*** For much of today's youth — depending on their environment and their family life — they've never really been asked to do much or test their abilities. They're looking for a challenge,

and of course that's what we advertise. We don't promise anything but a challenge, the opportunity to make something of yourself and to learn something about yourself.

***Flight Jacket:*** What unique challenges did you face as you climbed up the enlisted ladder?

***Wiese-Perisho:*** I was usually the only female in every section I worked in, up until, heck, when I was a drill instructor at Parris Island. So you always had to prove yourself, and even though you were a Marine, you weren't really accepted as an equal until you could prove you could do everything they (men) could do. I took that as a challenge.

***Flight Jacket:*** Do you foresee a day when female Marines will fill combat MOS billets?

***Wiese-Perisho:*** In some ways I think we already have because there's no rear line in combat anymore. I was with 9<sup>th</sup> Motors on Okinawa during Desert Storm. I didn't go, but we were ready to go. If you're going to wear the uniform, that has to be part of the understanding. You never know when you could end up being in a combat situation, and the Marine Corps learned that back in '68. When I was a drill instructor, Col. Vera Jones was the battalion commander. She was a captain in Vietnam during the Tet Offensive and hadn't received combat training. A young sergeant brought her an M-16 and some ammo, gave her a five minute class on how to use it and said, "Ma'am, you're on your own." There were about 20 females, mostly officers and staff NCOs, who had to defend their position, and up until that time they didn't have any training. Women have already been in combat, and we have for years. Whether they're ever going to be on the front line with the grunts, I don't know.

***Flight Jacket:*** Have you put much thought into your last day and what you will at your retirement?

***Wiese-Perisho:*** I don't think you ever retire from the Corps. I'm leaving active duty but the Corps will always be a part of me. But I haven't really sat down and thought about that. One thing about being the MarFor Reserve sergeant major is I spend a lot of time traveling. That's a part of my job I really like, meeting the Marines and seeing where they live and work, but it doesn't give me much time to reflect.

***Flight Jacket:*** What are your plans for the future?

***Wiese-Perisho:*** My daughter and I are horse people, so after I leave active duty we are going to move up around the Dallas-Fort Worth area and hopefully establish our own breeding and training stable there. As for tomorrow, I'm going to see my nephew graduate from boot camp. My career is coming to an end, but his is just beginning, whether he stays in for four years or 30 years. It's kind of nice to see him graduate and step off into the Marine Corps about the time I'm going out.



# San Diegans reconnect with Corps

by Lance Cpl.  
Kristopher S. Haloj

PAO, MCAS Miramar

**S**aturday more than 15,000 service members, family members and civilians gathered at the Sports Complex here for the Armed Forces Day Festival.

Armed Forces Day itself came about fifty years ago when President Truman issued a proclamation establishing a day to celebrate the unification of all the military forces under the Department of Defense.

According to General H. Shelton, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, perhaps the most important lesson we have learned over the last 50 years is that the backbone and strength of the Armed Forces is the people.

During the festival a variety of modern and vintage military equipment was on display for viewing and handling. Among the more notable displays was the M1-A1 tank supplied by 4th Tanks Battalion. Marines assisted patrons up on to and into the turret of the mobile cannon.

"The coolest thing out here is that tank. The Marines let me get on top of it and really check it out," said George Hunt, San Diego resident. "I wanted to take it for a spin, but they denied me the privilege."

The CH-46E from Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 165 was also a popular attraction. A continuous line filed

through the "Sea Knight" helicopter, many stopping to enjoy a few moments in the pilots' seats.

In addition to military displays there were a variety of other attractions includ-

ing rides, games, clowns, food booths, pony rides, a Civil War firing demonstration and a car show.

Nearly a hundred vintage and custom cars, from a Model-T to a 2001 Ford



photo by Mark Stevens

**Booths, rides and static displays covered the Youth Sports Complex Saturday in celebration of the 50th anniversary of Armed Forces Day. The all-day event boasted live entertainment, kiddie-rides, a military history exhibit, a craft show and many different kinds of food.**



photo by Lance Cpl. Kristopher S. Haloj

**Festival guests got a close-up and personal look at many military exhibits such as this CH-46 courtesy of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 165.**





photo by Lance Cpl. Kristopher S. Haloj



photo by Lance Cpl. Kristopher S. Haloj

Explorer, were on display covering the football field. Smiles and giggles filled the baseball field as children of all ages enjoyed the wide variety of fun activities such as the giant inflatable slide and the Orbitron. Games such as Laser Tag and a rock-climbing wall kept the fun from ending throughout the day.

"The Laser Tag was a trip. I had a lot of fun doing that. It took a while waiting 'in line' to get in there, but it was a fun time once I got to do it," said Sheryl D. Blake, San Diego resident.

Performance on the main stage throughout the day

included the Miramar gymnastics class, the Miramar dance class, a Kid-fit demonstration, a performance by pop and R&B singer Cpl. William Rivera, the cadence competition, and a variety of other musical performances.

Buried in all the fun and excitement, the message of the day remained intact.

"I think it's great that the military does this for us. It lets people know you guys aren't just about war," said Christopher L. Perez, Chula Vista resident, "Regardless of what people may say, we need the military. Where would we be without it."



photo by Lance Cpl. Kristopher S. Haloj

(Above) Kids bounce like pinballs in a "bounce house" that likened a dragon during the Armed Forces Day Festival, Saturday. (Top Left) The pony ride was one of many fun rides highlighted at the festival for youngsters. (Bottom Left) The 9th Annual Armed Forces Day Festival Car Show drew many car enthusiasts. The Auto Hobby Shop invited everyone to enter their own classic, muscle car, street rod, sports car, antique or custom car. The first 100 entrants were awarded a plaque and a T-shirt.



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# Miramar wins inline hockey title

by Staff Sgt. Ted L. Hansen

PAO, MCAS Miramar

Miramar’s inline hockey team claimed the Sportsplex USA Bronze AA Division title Monday night with two decisive victories over higher-seeded teams at the USA Sports Complex in Poway.

The first-year team was the last of four teams to make it to the league tournament. Marines upset the top-seeded “Play it Again Sports” team 6-4 in the semifinal round and then blasted the Pitchers 7-1.

Forward Jeff Kimball led Marines in scoring, netting hat tricks in both games. Team coach and captain, Jesse Gillespie, followed him with a hat trick of his own in the championship game and one assist in

each playoff game.

However, Gillespie said the entire team was key to the Marines success. “We were the underdogs, but somehow we pulled it through,” he said. “We all played our best games, probably our best games of the year.”

Forward Sean Crilley contributed a hearty offensive effort as well. He hustled for two goals and an assist in the semi-finals and added another goal in the second game.

Goalie Scott Rushford was by far the standout player of the tournament. Rushford was a virtual backstop, turning away opponents time and again. Opposing players often slammed their sticks against the boards



photo by Staff Sgt. Ted L. Hansen

Miramar forward Sean Crilley hooks the puck away from ‘Play It Again Sports’ center Jason Mackey. Crilley netted two goals and one assist in Miramar’s semifinal game, Monday, at the USA Sports Complex in Poway.

See **Hockey**, Page 11



photo by Lance Cpl. Kristopher S. Haloj

After grabbing a 10-yard pass, AVI receiver Adam Walker scrambles for as much yardage as possible before the Stangs defense devours him. Walker seemed to be the only chance AVI had against the Stangs.

# Stangs trample AVI

by Lance Cpl. Kristopher S. Haloj

PAO, MCAS Miramar

The Traffic Management Office “Stangs” trampled the Marine Aircraft Logistics Squadron-16 “AVI” 20-0, in Intramural flag football May 18 at the Miramar Sports Complex.

Stang’s quarterback Alvin Mercadel devastated AVI with his fast feet and precision passes. An early score in the first half proved the Stangs running game was fast and effec-

tive. By the middle of the half the AVI defense started cracking down on the Stangs offense. An interception by AVI receiver and defensive back Adam Walker seemed to spark the team to rally downfield. However, on fourth and goal AVI tried to squeak in the end zone but the Stangs defense swarmed on the play like flies on honey and forced a

See **Stangs**, Page 11



# Miramar women on upswing despite 1-4 record

*New coach aims to sharpen skills, firm roster and win*

by Staff Sgt. Ted L. Hansen

PAO, MCAS Miramar

Miramar’s Women’s Varsity Softball team was battered 15-3 by Naval Station San Diego Monday night.

After jumping out to a 3-2 lead at the end of the first, Miramar bats fell silent, totaling just seven hits on the night. Meanwhile, the girls from downtown scored no less than two runs an inning for the remaining frames.

“We played fairly good defense, we just didn’t hit with them,” said Jack Knapp, the new coach of the Miramar Women’s team. “We left a small tribe on the bases.”

However, Knapp noted that a half dozen errors led to at least a handful of unearned runs.

Despite the sorrowing results of his first game behind the bench, he said things are looking up for the ladies.

A recently retired master gunnery sergeant who now works in the Manpower office at Marine Corps Air Bases Western Area Headquarters, Knapp came to the team with a loaded resume of softball coaching experience and at the invitation of player/coach Louis McKeon. He coached the All-Marine Women’s Softball Team in the mid-1980s, coached the Men’s team at Quantico, Va., and more recently has coached national and international teams as well.

If his first week at the helm is any indicator of what is ahead, Miramar’s days of losing records are likely to become a fading memory.

Prior to Knapp’s arrival the ladies had few practices. “You’ve got to practice with the people you’re going to play with and next to,” said Knapp. So, last week he put the ladies through more practice than they’ve had since the beginning of the season--four hours in two days. Most of the practice was focused on fielding.

After Monday’s loss, Knapp said more practice is needed for the team which is a mixture of first-year and experienced players. This time practice will be focused on batting. “Slow-pitch softball is hitting,” he said. “Right now I’ve only got two girls who can hit to right field.” He said the ability to hit to right field is vital to scoring the water-mark of 15 runs per game Knapp aims for.

Knapp admitted it will take more than a practice or two to make Miramar a championship team. After the teams’ remaining three Southern Pacific League games, he said he plans on playing the team in about two tournaments a month. The first will be in Palm Spring, Calif., June 3.

“A coach always like to get his team to some tournaments early in the season,” said Knapp. “It brings them together and develops continuity.”

With this SoPac season almost complete, Knapp said he is focusing on the fall season. He said the ladies will continue to play throughout the summer, possibly in local league in addition to tournament play.

A coach who strongly believes that fun is synonymous with winning, Knapp said he is searching for more skilled ladies to join the team. Interested players can contact Knapp by calling (858) 577-7933.



photo by Staff Sgt. Ted L. Hansen

Naval Station San Diego shortstop Donna Ice slides in safe for a triple under the tag of Miramar pitcher Jasmine Becerra during a four-run fourth inning rally. Naval Air Station out hit Miramar, which only managed seven hits on the night.

Miramar Softball noon standings					Miramar Intramural Flag Football standings					Miramar Softball night standings				
Rank	Team	Win	Loss	Pct.	Rank	Team	Win	Loss	Pct.	Rank	Team	Win	Loss	Pct.
1	Posse	11	0	1.00	1	Posse	9	0	1.00	1	Tigers	9	1	.900
2	Tyrants	13	2	.866	2	Just Nasty	10	2	.833	2	.38 Special	5	1	.833
3	Aces	12	3	.800	3	Aces	9	3	.750	3	Raiders	6	3	.666
4	Forerunners	11	3	.785	4	Hornets	9	3	.750	4	Regulators	6	5	.545
5	En Fuego	9	4	.692	5	Hustlers	6	3	.666	5	Devils	4	6	.400
6	Lockdown	9	4	.692	6	Runners	8	4	.666	6	Help Wanted	2	8	.200
7	Prosecutors	6	5	.545	7	Chow Hawgs	7	4	.636	7	Wolfpack	0	6	.000
8	Scrubs	7	6	.538	8	Run & Gun	5	5	.500					
9	4 Real	5	6	.455	9	Panthers	4	7	.363					
10	Enigmas	5	8	.385	10	Stangs	4	7	.363					
11	GSE	5	9	.357	11	AVI	4	8	.333					
12	Hitmen	4	9	.308	12	Power Plant	2	8	.200					
13	Ready Cat 1	3	8	.272	13	Shooters	1	6	.142					
14	Tanked Up	2	9	.182	14	Tanked Up	1	8	.111					
15	Supply	0	12	.000	15	X-Men	1	10	.091					
16	Heavy Hitters	0	13	.000										



# Club awards strides of hardworking students

by Lance Cpl. Kristopher S. Haloj

PAo, MCAS Miramar

The Marine Officers Spouses Club presented seven scholarships to military family members May 18 at the home of Maj. Gen. M.P. DeLong, commander 3d Marine Aircraft Wing.

Bethany Stalder, Avianta Robertson, Joseph Stalnaker, Pearl Ambrosio and Mona Gatto, were awarded scholarships for more than just outstanding academic records. They were also judged on their personal goals and aspirations, and for volunteer work they do in the community.

"When I think of all of the men and women that are in uniform I think about how they go beyond the call of duty. There is a certain duty that they are responsible for, but you never see them just staying within those parameters, and you see that the recipients here tonight are no different," said Lynn Holtzhouser, scholarship committee chairperson. "They are spouses of Marines. They are children of Marines. They are just like their dads and their husbands, going beyond the call of duty. That's why they're getting the good grades. That's why they're out there supporting our community and volunteering. Great character qualities, that's what we see

in all of them."

The Marine Officers Spouses Club funded four of the scholarships, each in the amount of \$500. The United Services Planning Association and Independent Research Agency, a financial programming association for military professionals, funded the fifth in the amount of \$1000.

Each recipient, individually, stood before sponsors, committee members, friends and family and gave their thanks and thoughts.

"I really count this as an honor to be receiving a scholarship tonight," said Avianta Robertson, 18, daughter of Gunnery Sgt. Jackier Robertson and \$500 MOSC scholarship recipient, "I always commend organizations, clubs, corporations, anyone who recognizes the positive things that teenagers are doing today. A lot of the time on the news you won't see anything positive about teenagers. Thank you all just for recognizing, not just because I'm getting a scholarship, just for recognizing that I'm doing something good."

Avianta plans to use her scholarship toward a degree in communications or English at California State University at Long Beach. Her ultimate goal is to become a broadcast journalist and have her own television program. Scholarships weren't the only awards



photo by Lance Cpl. Kristopher S. Haloj

(From left to right) Avianta Robertson, Joseph Stalnaker, Mona Gatto, Bethany Stalder and Pearl Ambrosio gather for a group photo after each received a scholarship during a Marine Officers Spouse's Club ceremony May 18 at the home of Maj. Gen. M.P. DeLong, commander 3d MAW. Scholarships ranged from \$500-\$1,000.

given out that evening MOSC also donated money to the MCAS Miramar Food Locker and the Marine Outreach Program, two programs that help Marine families in need. As a special show of caring and support and a savings bond was given to Mariam Paige for

her daughter, Anna Lee Paige, in memory of her father Gunnery Sgt. James Paige Jr., Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron, one of the Marines who lost his life in the tragic CH-46E crash off the shore in Camp Pendleton.

## Briefly

**Free Movies**

•**Today:** *High Fidelity (R)*, 6:30 p.m.; *Romeo must Die (R)*, 8:45 p.m.

•**Saturday:** *The Road to El Dorado (PG)*, 6:30 p.m.; *Snow Day (PG)*, 8:30 p.m.

•**Sunday:** *The Road to El Dorado (PG)*, 1 p.m.; *Erin Brockovich (R)*, 6:30 p.m.

### Second career seminar offered

Officers and staff noncommissioned officers are inviting to a "Marketing Yourself for a Second Career," seminar by Col. H.W. "Buzz" Buse III at the Officer's Club here at 2 p.m.-4 p.m., June 2. The presentation is for Marines leaving the service within the next five years. Spouses are also encouraged to attend.

### Marine Corps Marathon Goodwill tour holds drawing

The Marine Corps Marathon team members will be holding a drawing for entries in the Oct. 22 race in Arlington, Va., at the Iwo Jima Memorial. The race has been sold out, so this is a last chance for some to participate in the race. The drawing is open to anyone with a military identification card. Entry forms will be available 11 a.m.-3p.m. at the base Exchange June 2. Entry forms are limited to one per family. For more infor-

mation, call 577-1702.

### Camp Pendleton to open Correctional Custody facility

Work is underway on a new Correctional Custody facility. The facility's is scheduled to open in October 2000, at MCB Camp Pendleton.

### New uniform undershirt regulations

As of May 2000, Marines are only au-

thorized to wear a green undershirt with the utilities uniform, as per Marine Administration Message 521/99.

### Uniformed and overseas citizen voting information

There is an on-line version of the voting forms through the Internet for service members stationed overseas. For more information, see the on-line version of the Federal Post Card Application at [www.fvap.ncr.gov](http://www.fvap.ncr.gov) or e-mail the Federal Voting Assistance Program at [vote@fvap.ncr.gov](mailto:vote@fvap.ncr.gov).

### Hockey, continued from page 8

in frustration from Rushford's stingy goal tending. Rushford withstood a flurry of shots through traffic and weathered a host of second chance shots on loose pucks left in front of the net. His sturdy play made up for the periodic gaps in Miramar's defense, which was if anything, overly aggressive at times.

Eric Lorbach led defensemen in scoring with a total of three assists. Kevin Cestari followed with an assist in each game. Although he didn't score a point Robert Williams played aggressively all-around. He rarely allowed opponents to advance past the red line without a dose of his persistent forechecking. Marines attacked the Pitchers on all points in championship game. They scored four goals and allowed only one by Pitchers' forward Steve Merklin.

After the league's top scorer netted his first goal, Gillespie and defenseman Scott Lutzke conferred to tighten down on him. They rotated lines to match up with Merklin. "After he realized what we were doing, he just started playing the whole game," said Lutzke, who also booked an assist in the game.

Lutzke said he was pleasantly surprised by the Marine play, noting that they went out to have fun and be ambassadors for the Corps and the championship just made it all a bit sweeter.

### Stangs, continued from page 8

turnover. Down by seven at the half, AVI, still had a chance to get back in the game, executed a play consisting of a series of ugly shuffle passes, that gets them in good field position. Yet again the brutal Stangs defense leaves them with no choice but to turn the ball over.

The Stangs, with a predominantly running offense, decided to test their passing game. At mid-field the Mercadel launches a 30-yard pass to receiver Freddy Cotton, bringing them within 10 yards of their second touchdown. Mercadel then took things into his own hands, sweeping right around the AVI defense for another Stangs touchdown. AVI receives the ball on their own 20. Even with the hands and quickness of Walker, AVI was unable to convert on the 4th down.

From the AVI 20, Mercadel tossed a short pass to running back Markey Thomas, who snatched the ball from the air and trucked 10 yards into the end zone for the Stangs third touchdown. The Stangs were unable to get across the line for the extra point end line the game. A final score of 20-0 raised the Stangs to a 3-7 record. The loss dropped AVI to 4-6. The Stangs next game is scheduled for 11:15 a.m., June 1, at Mills Park. AVI is scheduled to compete again 12:15 p.m., June 1, at the Sports Complex.



**Armed Forces Day,**  
continued from page 1

the reasons.  
For more information on the campaign to promote public understanding of the military, visit *www.defense link.mil/ specials outreachpublic/*.

**Marines,**  
continued from page 1

ber 1995, U.S. and Cambodian specialists conducted an underwater recovery of the helicopter crash site where they located numerous remains, personal effects and aircraft debris associated with the loss. The USS Brunswick, a Navy salvage vessel, enabled the specialists to conduct their excavation off shore.  
In addition to the support provided by the Cambodian government, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam also interviewed two Vietnamese informants in Ho Chi Minh City who turned over remains that were later positively identified.  
With the accounting of these six Marines, 2,022 Americans remain missing in action from the Vietnam War. Another 561 have been identified and returned to their families since the end of the war. Analysis of the remains and other evidence was made by the U.S. Army Central Identification Laboratory Hawaii, which also conducted all the remains recovery operations. The CILHI made extensive use of mitochondrial DNA as one of the forensic identification tools to establish the identity of these men.  
The U.S. government welcomes and ap-

preciates the cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam that resulted in the accounting of these servicemen. We hope that such cooperation will bring increased results in the future. Achieving the fullest possible accounting for these Americans is of the highest national priority.

**Remembrance,**  
continued from page 4

“See, for them, when they come and they see the monument, it takes them back to a time, a time they were here during the war,” stated Hocog. “It’s really touching because they end up thinking about their buddies that were killed here. It’s like Guam has a special place in the hearts of those veterans who fought here.”  
A letter dated April 7, 2000 recently arrived for Hocog. “Dear Victor,” the letter begins. “On behalf of ... all the Members of our organization, we would like to extend our sincerest THANK YOU for all you have done, and continue to do in caring for and maintaining our Memorial. Words to express our appreciation are difficult to find, but rest assured, it comes directly from our hearts. ... It makes us extremely happy that someone cares enough to take the time and effort to maintain this most important Memorial. ...Victor, you shall always be in our prayers, ... God bless you and thank you. Darrell Doss, Fifth Fielder.”  
Hocog likens the monument to Guam itself, both have been liberated from a web

of encroachment and become flourishing gardens. He believes this common endearment can help strengthen the spiritual link between his people and the men who freed them. This bond, spanning distance and time, promises that the soldiers and Chamorros will be forever connected.  
“I’m sure that a lot of the Chamorro people that didn’t know that monument belonged to our liberators, they will stop by and pay their respect,” said Hocog. “We are so grateful to the boys, the American boys.  
“We have begun in the new millennium. The boys live again.”

**Travel,**  
continued from page 2

tour once the tour has been paid for. “It (fees) helps us cut down on expenses and still do business knowing the specific needs of service members,” said Richardson.  
Some ways the center is helping to counter these costs is through new programs they are going to start in the upcoming year. One program that will eventually be offered is a new travel deal that would have a set destination and set dates for trips that would be for a certain amount. They would offer a fixed number of tickets that individuals could purchase for a discount rate and they would have the benefit of going with other people, said Richardson.  
This would be ideal for individuals who might not necessarily have someone to travel with, but don’t want to go alone. It would also offer the discounted rate and no trans-

actional fees, adds Richardson.  
Another service offered at no cost is the Airline Reservation phone, often called the “red phone.” The red phone has access to the regional telephone bank for service members to make airline reservations from. If they use a credit card to make the transaction from the phone there is no charge. Richardson adds this is more cost-effective than sitting down with a travel agent and can be done from either the red phone or from a person’s house.  
Through the travel office’s Web site, *www.mwrleisuretravel.com*, people can check their itinerary using the confirmation code they get when purchasing their ticket. Eventually, reservations will also be able to be done from this site. For more information about the fees or to book a reservation, call 578-3049.

**Pilots,**  
continued from page 1

him to turn around. He began a right turn and we just stayed with him as long as we could.”  
Ellis and Kretzchmar communicated the Super King’s coordinates and heading to air traffic control before initiating their own emergency profile to San Clemente Island. The “Hornet” was refueled in a matter of minutes, ready to further assist if necessary, but was instructed to return to Miramar. It was only after returning to the air station that Ellis and Kretzschmar received word that the pilot had been rescued by the Coast Guard.